

+ term

to abstain from

+ meaning

to refrain or desist from, to voluntarily not partake in

+ sentence

During Lent, the children abstained from sweets.

**+ term**

to abstain from

**+ meaning**

to refrain from doing something or making a decision

**+ informal or slang synonyms**

to sit on one's butt or duff, to sit one's hands, to sit on the fence, to fence sit

+ term

to abstain from alcohol

+ meaning

to stop or abstain from drinking, to no longer drink

+ sentence

This time I will abstain from alcohol at the party.

+ popular idioms

to abstract something from

+ meaning

to extract, to detach, to separate

+ sentence

The author abstracted this article from his book.

+ term

abstruse

+ meaning

beyond comprehension or understanding, inscrutable

+ sentence

Because he is so **abstruse**, I don't understand him at all.

+ term

abstruse

+ meaning

beyond comprehension or understanding, inscrutable

+ informal or slang synonyms

as clear as mud, Greek to me or as clear as dishwater,  
you've got me, not have a clue, got me

+ term

absurd

+ meaning

ridiculous, silly, ludicrous, idiotic

+ sentence

He is an **absurd** person who doesn't understand anything.

**+ term**

absurd

**+ meaning**

unthinkable, beyond belief or comprehension, inconceivable

**+ sentence**It's **absurd**. Of course, he couldn't kill anyone. Could he?

**+ term**

absurd

**+ meaning**

ridiculous, silly, ludicrous, idiotic

**+ informal or slang synonyms**

wacky, screwy, cockamamie, loony, batty, off, not make any sense, the wall, moronic, (Scottish English) doiled, kooky

+ term

absurdity

+ meaning

foolishness, ludicrousness, nonsense, craziness

+ sentence

What **absurdity!** I am flabbergasted and astounded.

**+ term**

absurdly + adjective

**+ meaning**

very, ridiculously, very, or extremely + adjective

**+ sentence**

The exam was **absurdly easy**. I didn't even have to study.

+ term

absurdly cheap

+ meaning

so cheap that it is ridiculous, very or extremely cheap

+ sentence

The house was so **absurdly cheap** that I had to buy it.

**+ term**

absurdly cheap

**+ meaning**

so cheap that it is ridiculous, very or extremely cheap

**+ informal or slang synonyms**

dirt cheap, dog cheap, cost next to nothing, bought for a song, picked up for a song, a real buy, cost nothing

**+ term**

abubble (British English)

**+ meaning**

excited, inflamed, anxious, fiery, (British English) keen

**+ sentence**

She was **abubble** with the news.

+ term

abubble (British English)

+ meaning

excited, inflamed, anxious, fiery, (British English) keen

+ informal or slang synonyms

zestful, hopped up, stirred or all fired up, psyched up, wild about, sparked

+ term

abundant

+ meaning

bountiful, plentiful, more than enough, great quantity

+ sentence

We have an abundant amount of food. We won't run out.

+ term

abundant (to have an abundant amount of money)

+ meaning

rich, wealthy, well-to-do, well-connected

+ informal or slang synonyms

comfortable, fat, flush, on easy street, in the dough, rolling in the dough, in the money, no where near poor, okay

+ term

abundantly clear

+ meaning

obvious, without a doubt, apparent, coherent

+ sentence

He was abundantly clear. He no longer loves you.

+ **term**

abundantly clear

+ **meaning**

obvious, without a doubt, apparent, coherent

+ **informal or slang synonyms**

plain, as plain as the nose on one's face, glaring, like a red flag, clear as crystal, patently clear

+ popular idioms

---

to abuse

+ meaning

---

to mistreat, to ill-treat, to physically abuse, to hit, to beat

+ informal or slang synonyms

---

to rough up, to knock around, to manhandle, to beat up,  
to give someone the works, to kick around

+ popular idioms

---

to abuse

+ meaning

---

to disrespect, to defame, to destroy the reputation of

+ informal or slang synonyms

---

to dump or rag on, to smear, to rip up the back,  
to bad or bitter mouth, to trash

+ term

to abuse

+ meaning

to assault someone sexually, to rape, to sexually molest

+ sentence

If anyone ever tries to **abuse** you, you must tell me.

**+ term**

to abuse

**+ meaning**

to assault someone sexually, to rape, to molest

**+ informal or slang synonyms**

(euphemism) to take advantage of, to have one's way with

**+ term**

to abuse

**+ meaning**

to misuse, to wrong, to aggrieve, to ill-use, to maltreat

**+ informal or slang synonyms**

to do a number to, to do someone dirty, to give one the finger, to do one wrong, to slam, to dish or cuss out

+ term

to abustle (British English)

+ meaning

active, animated, vibrant, energetic

+ sentence

The new director was **abustle** with all the new students and staff.

+ **term**

abustle (British English)

+ **meaning**

active, animated, vibrant, hectic with, energetic

+ **informal or slang synonyms**

on the move, on the go, moving, up and about, up and doing, hopping, jumping

+ term

abysmal

+ meaning

appalling, extremely bad, horrible, horrid, disgusting, terrible

+ sentence

I'm sorry to say that your reading was **abysmal**. Did you practice before coming here?

+ **term**

abysmal

+ **meaning**

appalling, extremely bad, horrible, horrid, disgusting, terrible

+ **informal or slang synonyms**

god-awful, grisly, dreadful, loathsome

+ term

academes

+ meaning

type of English

+ meaning

use of English where the speaker and writer needlessly use complicated structures and specialized jargon designed to make the simple appear complex

+ term

academic English

+ meaning

type of English

+ meaning

register of English used by scholars and scientists

+ term

academic English

+ meaning

type of English

+ meaning

an impersonal type of English devoid of any emotions or idiomatic expressions

**+ term**

academic English

**+ meaning**

type of English

**+ meaning**

dry speech in which the passive voice is preferred as a means to minimize personality. The following constructions are examples: It was found, It is believed, It was discussed

**+ term**

a Catch-22

**+ meaning**

to be in a contradictory situation

**+ sentence**

It's a Catch-22. I can't get a job because I have no experience. I can't get any experience because I can't get a job.

**+ term**

to accede to

**+ meaning**

to attain or assume an office, to succeed to

**+ sentence**

Upon the death of his mother, Prince Charles will accede to the English throne.

+ term

to accede to

+ meaning

to agree, assent or consent to, to permit, to allow

+ sentence

I may not have any power but I will not accede to the state's demands.

**+ term**

to accede to

**+ meaning**

to agree, assent or consent to, to permit, to allow

**+ informal or slang synonyms**

to play ball with, to give the green light to, to buy, to be game for, to okay, to get on the bandwagon, to sign on

**+ term**

to accede to

**+ meaning**

to acquiesce to, to yield, to conform, to bow to

**+ informal or slang synonyms**

to throw in the towel or the sponge, to fold, to roll over and play dead, to knuckle under or to, to lie down and roll over

**+ term**

to accelerate

**+ meaning**

to increase in velocity, to go faster, to speed up

**+ informal or slang synonyms**

to gun, to drop the hammer, to open or rev up, to put the pedal to the metal, to hammer down or on, to step on the gas

+ term

to accelerate

+ meaning

to promote, to push forward or onward, to advance

+ sentence

The lobbyists encouraged the congressmen to accelerate their bill.

+ **term**

to accelerate

+ **meaning**

to promote, to push forward or onward, to advance

+ **informal or slang synonyms**

to speed up, to step up, to press forward, to railroad, to railroad through, to push through, to push on

+ term

accent

+ meaning

pronunciation, speech pattern, mode of expression

+ sentence

The problem is not the word but the **accent** that you place on the word.

+ **term**

accent

+ **meaning**

pronunciation, speech pattern, mode of expression

+ **informal or slang synonyms**

drawl, twang, broad speech, brogue, burr

+ term

to accentuate

+ meaning

to stress, to emphasize, to give emphasis to, to italicize

+ sentence

Unless you **accentuate** this section of the proposed law, nothing will happen.

**+ term**

to accentuate

**+ meaning**

to stress, to emphasize, to give emphasis to, to italicize

**+ informal or slang synonyms**

to underline, to punctuate, to highlight, to spot light,  
to headline

**+ term**

to accept

**+ meaning**

to submit to, to comply with, to assent

**+ informal or slang synonyms**

to say 'yes' to, to go along with, to take someone up on, to okay, to get behind, to put one's John Hancock on, to give the nod to, to give the stamp of approval

+ term

to accept someone as

+ meaning

to accommodate, reconcile or resign oneself to

+ sentence

He now accepts himself as a drug addict.

+ term

to accept something as

+ meaning

to agree that something will serve in payment of debt

+ sentence

He accepted his labor as repayment for the money.

**+ term**

to accept the blame for

**+ meaning**

to take responsibility for something which has gone wrong

**+ sentence**

Even though he had not known anything about it, he did accept the blame for his subordinates' action.

**+ term**

to accept the fact that

**+ meaning**

to reconcile oneself to a fact that is unpleasant or distasteful

**+ sentence**

I accept the fact that racism is alive and well.

+ **term**

to accept what one does not want to

+ **meaning**

to bear, to tolerate, to brook, to endure

+ **informal or slang synonyms**

to swallow, to stomach, to swim with the tide, to stand still for, to not make waves, to put up with, to stand for

+ term

acceptable

+ meaning

suitable, proper, fitting, right, appropriate

+ informal or slang synonyms

cool, peachy, keen, swell, Jake, (British English) ducky or just ducky

+ **term**

acceptable

+ **meaning**

satisfactory, capable, all right, respectable, competent

+ **informal or slang synonyms**

up to snuff, not that bad, all to the mustard, on the ball, hitting on all six, sharp, up to code, up to scratch

**+ term**

acceptable

**+ meaning**

fair, normal, regular, mediocre, middling, ordinary

**+ informal or slang synonyms**

O.K., good enough, no great shakes, nothing to write about, so-so, not that good

+ **term**

accident

+ **meaning**

mistake, mishap, misfortune

+ **informal or slang synonyms**

slip-up, boner, flub, slip, megamistake, botch up, goof-up, glitch, blooper

**+ term**

accident

**+ meaning**

freak accident, happenstance, casualty

**+ informal or slang synonyms**

fluke, long odds, one in a million, twist of fate, bad luck

+ term

accident

+ meaning

car accident

+ informal or slang synonyms

fender-bender, smash-up, total pileup, crack up, rear ender, stack-up, rack up, fender tag

+ term

accidentally on purpose

+ meaning

as if by accident but with hidden intention of malice or harm

+ sentence

I heard. She **accidentally on purpose** hit the man with the car.

**+ term**

accident prone

**+ meaning**

a person who is always having or being involved in accidents

**+ informal or slang synonyms**

all thumbs, klutzy, like a bull in a china store, bumbling

**+ term**

accidents happen

**+ meaning**

said when one does not have a reason for something happening

**+ informal or slang synonyms**

to throw up one's hands or shrug one's shoulders in resignation

**+ term**

to acclaim

**+ meaning**

to applaud, to celebrate, to sound the praise for, to cheer

**+ informal or slang synonyms**

I **acclaim** you and your family for doing the impossible.

**+ term**

acclaimed

**+ meaning**

celebrated, praised, cheered, hailed

**+ informal or slang synonyms**

touted, highly touted, up there, double-barreled,  
high powered, not to be sneezed at, right up there

**+ term**

to acclaim

**+ meaning**

to applaud, to celebrate, to sound the praise for, to cheer

**+ informal or slang synonyms**

to pat on the back, to pump up, to stroke, to give a bouquet, to beat one's drum, to have to hand it to, to hear it for, to puff up, to boost

+ term

to acclimate oneself to

+ meaning

to become familiar, accustomed or used to

+ sentence

I was never able to acclimate myself to the cold.

**+ term**

to acclimate oneself to

**+ meaning**

to become familiar, accustomed or used to

**+ informal or slang synonyms**

to learn the ropes, to adjust, toughen or harden oneself to,  
to break oneself in

**+ term**

to acclimatize to

**+ meaning**

to inure or season oneself to, to become used to

**+ informal or slang synonyms**

to get used to, to get one's sea legs, to roll with the punches, to learn to swim with the tide, to settle in

**+ term**

acclivitous

**+ meaning**

sloping upward, mounting, climbing

**+ informal or slang synonyms**

towering up, looming, springing or heaving up

**+ term**

accolade

**+ meaning**

adulation, award, praise, cheers, applause, claps

**+ informal or slang synonyms**

strokes, glowing words, bouquets, puffery, kudos, (Irish English) blarney

+ **term**

to accomodate

+ **meaning**

to meet the needs of, to help, to oblige, to assist, to aid

+ **informal or slang synonyms**

to do right by, to give or lend a hand to, to do a favor or service for

+ **term**

to accomodate

+ **meaning**

to give shelter, housing or lodging to, to house, to shelter

+ **informal or slang synonyms**

to provide with a roof, to put up, to allow one to stay with,  
to make room for

**+ term**

to accomodate

**+ meaning**

to arrange matters, to settle differences, to heal the breach

**+ informal or slang synonyms**

to patch up, to square, to fix up, to mend

+ term

to accommodate oneself to

+ meaning

to conform, adapt or habituate oneself to

+ sentence

It was not easy to accommodate myself to to the situation.

**+ term**

to accommodate oneself to

**+ meaning**

to conform, acclimate, attune, adapt or habituate oneself to

**+ informal or slang synonyms**

to become suited to, to become or get used to, to get one's act together, to go with the flow, to shape up, to straighten up and fly right

**+ term**

to accomodate someone with

**+ meaning**

to aid, to help, to meet the wants of

**+ sentence**

The airlines were not willing to accomodate me with another flight; therefore, I was forced to delay my trip.

**+ term**

accommodations

**+ meaning**

abode, residence, quarters, dwelling, lodgings, home, a room

**+ sentence**

Thank you but I don't need a place to stay. I already have accommodations.

+ **term**

acomodations

+ **meaning**

abode, residence, quarters, dwelling, lodgings, home, rooms

+ **informal or slang synonyms**

pad, crash pad, crib, roof over one's head, (British English)  
diggings or digs, (French) pied-à-terre

**+ term**

to accompany

**+ meaning**

to go somewhere with another person

**+ informal or slang synonyms**

to string, drag, schlep or tag along

+ term

to accompany someone with (a musical instrument)

+ meaning

to play piano or guitar or harmonize with, to play with

+ sentence

She accompanied her husband with her violin.

**+ term**

to accomplish

**+ meaning**

to realize, to fulfill, to make happen, to achieve, to attain

**+ sentence**

It was not always easy to accomplish my goals but I had refused to give up.

+ **term**

to accomplish

+ **meaning**

to realize, to fulfill, to make happen, to achieve, to attain

+ **informal or slang synonyms**

to make it, to score, to hit, to arrive, to nail it, to sew up,  
to bring home the bacon, to pull it off

+ term

accomplished

+ meaning

proficient, skillful, skilled, masterly

+ sentence

He is an accomplished writer. I really enjoy his books.

**+ term**

accomplished

**+ meaning**

proficient, skillful, skilled, masterly

**+ informal or slang synonyms**

top drawer, top notch, exceptional, on the ball,  
(British English) whizzo, crack

+ term

accomplished

+ meaning

effected, completed, realized, fulfilled, achieved

+ sentence

I must congratulate you. Your goal has been accomplished.

**+ term**

accomplished

**+ meaning**

effected, completed, realized, fulfilled, achieved

**+ informal or slang synonyms**

cleaned up, pulled it off, did the trick, came through with, done to a T, home free, wrapped or buttoned up

**+ term**

to accord

**+ meaning**

to agree, to admit, to permit, to accede

**+ informal or slang synonyms**

to go along, to cotton with, to buy, to fall in line with, to fall in with

**+ term**

accord

**+ meaning**

agreement, accordance, concordance, mutual understanding

**+ informal or slang synonyms**

on the same wavelength, handshake, Roger Dodger, okay

+ term

(of one's own) accord

+ meaning

one's own choice, voluntarily, without being forced

+ sentence

He changed his will of his own accord.

+ term

according to

+ meaning

to be in compliance or accordance with

+ sentence

According to the law, because you are over eighteen, you must vote.

**+ term**

to accost

**+ meaning**

to confront boldly, to attack, to assault, to affront, to pursue

**+ informal or slang synonyms**

to bother, to harry, to pester, to bully, to harass, to set upon, to storm, to meet face to face, to come face to face with

**+ term**

to accost

**+ meaning**

to approach, to draw near, to talk to, to converse with

**+ informal or slang synonyms**

to buttonhole, to nab, to bend someone's ear, to meet up with, to sidle up to, to catch up to, to nab, to edge up to

+ term

account

+ meaning

explanation, version, commentary

+ sentence

Okay, I'm listening. What's your **account** on what happened.

+ **term**

account

+ **meaning**

explanation, version, one's take on the matter

+ **informal or slang synonyms**

the picture, run down, low down, play by play, story,  
blow by blow

+ term

account

+ meaning

statement, invoice, bill

+ sentence

He sent me an **account** of everything that I owed.

+ **term**

account

+ **meaning**

statement, invoice, bill

+ **informal or slang synonyms**

tab, (British English) tick, check, bad news

+ term

to account for

+ meaning

to clear up, to clarify, to explain

+ sentence

He could not account for the mix-up.

**+ term**

to account for

**+ meaning**

to clear up, to clarify, to explain

**+ informal or slang synonyms**

to let the daylight in, to make clear, to make perfectly clear,  
to put one straight

+ term

to account for

+ meaning

to know the whereabouts of, to know where someone is

+ sentence

I will always be able to account for his movement.

+ term

to account for

+ meaning

to understand, to make comprehensible, to comprehend

+ sentence

No one can account for his actions.

**+ term**

to account for

**+ meaning**

to understand, to make comprehensible, to comprehend

**+ informal or slang synonyms**

to get the hang of, to glean, to get a fix on, to make head or tails of, (British English) to twig, to figure out

+ term

accountable to

+ meaning

to be responsible or liable for, to be answerable to

+ sentence

You are **accountable to** everyone in this business.

+ **term**

accountable to

+ **meaning**

to be responsible or liable for, to be answerable to

+ **informal or slang synonyms**

carrying the load for, on the hook for, answerable to